



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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KEY LARGO CORAL REEF PRESERVE TO BE DEDICATED

The Department of the Interior and the State of Florida will formally dedicate the Key Largo Coral Reef Preserve in a ceremony at Harris Park, Tavernier, Florida, Saturday, December 10.

Participating will be Ross Leffler, Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish and Wildlife, and Governor Le Roy Collins of Florida.

The new preserve, located on the Continental Shelf off the lower east coast of Florida, involves the only living coral reef on the North American continent. It is an underwater area of spectacular beauty and also provides habitat and shelter for innumerable marine animals.

It was made a preserve by separate but coordinated actions of the Federal Government and the State of Florida. The United States action was taken on March 15, 1960, when the President issued a proclamation establishing the preserve on the Outer Continental Shelf. That portion of the reef within the boundaries of the State of Florida was transferred by State action to the Florida Board of Parks and Historic Memorials.

This fall, the Department of the Interior promulgated Federal regulations protecting the preserve by prohibiting removal or destruction of the natural features of the area and restricting activities within the preserve. Florida issued similar regulations.

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